Revenue (1949) Department

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 756

Dated 23.3.49

[Despatch Abstract.]

PROHIBITION : ENFORCEMENT : WORKING OF : MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 1948 : RECORDED.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Public Works (Information & Publicity) Department.

Press Note No. 48 dated the 9th March 1949.

The following is a report on the enforcement of Prohibition during December 1948 and the ameliorative work connected with it.

ENFORCEMENT

CASES: The total number of cases detected during the month in the 25 districts of the Province was 5060 as against 5108 cases detected during the previous month. The total number of cases reported in the 16 districts to which Prohibition was extended in 1946 and 1947 was the lowest since June 1948 being only 3475 as against 3703 cases detected during the previous month. There was a decrease in the number of cases detected in the Ceded Districts, Salem, the Nilgiris, Malabar, Tanjore and Mathurai, the fall mainly being under illicit distillation and miscellaneous cases. There was an increase in detection figures in Coimbatore, Nellore and South Kanara which was due to the result of constant and effective raids conducted by the staff in the illicit distillation crime areas. In the 9 new Prohibition districts the total number of cases reported during the month was 1585 as against 1405 cases in the previous month. There was an appreciable increase in the number of cases in Krishna, Madras, Chingleput and Tirunelveli.

ILLICIT DISTILLATION: Of the total number of cases reported in the 25 districts 2710 cases related to illicit distillation and kindred offences as against 2622 cases during the previous month.

ILLICIT TAPPING: In the 25 districts 245 cases of illicit tapping were reported during the month as against 145 cases in the previous month. This is made up of 45 cases relating to tapping for fermented toddy, 8 cases to permitting sweet toddy to ferment and 192 cases to tapping for sweet toddy without licences.

SMUGGLING OF LIQUOR: The total number of cases of smuggling of liquor reported during the month was 63 in all the 25 districts as against 51 during the previous month. 60 of these cases related to bringing in of liquor from other provinces and States and 3 to smuggling from other districts.

INTOXICATING DRUGS: 218 cases relating to intoxicating drugs were detected in all the 25 districts as against 208 reported during the previous month.

AMELIORATION.

SUBSTITUTE FOR DRINK: New tea or cofee stalls were opened in the districts of North Arcot, Trichy, East Godavari, Anantapur, Coimbatore Salem, Kistna, Madura, Ramnad, South Kanara and Bellary during the month. These stalls continued to be popular in the Prohibition districts. Milk bars arranged by the Milk Supply Unions of Ambur, Chittoor and Tirupati hafe become popular among ex-addicts as well as other patrons.

RURAL RECREATION: The Rural Welfare Officers visisted 2084 villages and conducted rural games in 765 villages 57 firka tournaments and 5 taluk tournaments were hold during the month and they attracted large gatherings of ex-addicts and other villagers. Prizes were also distributed to the winners in these tournaments. On the occasion of the visist of the Honourable the Minister for Prohibition and Firka Development to the East Godavari District, a very interesting programme of dances was organised by the inmates of the Seethanagaram Asramam. Inter village tournaments and firka tournaments were also held in some districts which attracted a large number of villagers

BHAJANAS, KALAKSHEPAMS AND FOLK-DANCES: Bhajanas, Harikathas and Kalashepams were held in 648 villages during the month. These and other forms of community singing attracted ex-addicts in large numbers. Reading of the popular epics like Ramayana and Mahabarata was

also organised in many districts by the ameliorative staff. The Government have sanctioned Rs. 16,000 for the old Prohibition districts and Rs. 4,500 for the new prohibition districts for the grant of subsidies to deserving dramatic troupes in the districts for enacting village dramas. Folk dances, dramas and cinemas were held in 132 villages at the instance of the ameliorative staff. Street dramas and other theatrical performances were also staged by school children and troupes of Harijans and other groups attracted the villagers largely. The trainees of the group Rural Uplift School of Papanasam in Tanjore staged a drama under the title "New Life" depiciting the fortunes of a shepherd's family before and after the introduction of Prohibition. Radios and public parks continued to serve as sources of recreation for the ex-addicts. The Hon'ble the Minister for Industries and Labour opened the Nehur Park at Admi in Bellary district, during the month. Propaganda vans continued to be utilised for the propaganda work.

GRAMASANGAMS: 161 Gramasangams were organised during the month. Out of the gramasangams organised so far, 6734 were active during the month and did good work for the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the villagers particularly in the direction of improvement of public health, sanitation, communications, education and economic uplift, agricultural improvement. uplift of backward communities etc.

THRIFT: A total sum of Rs. 21,014 was saved in hundi boxes during the month.

ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT TO EX-TAPPERS: A land Colonization Society was organised in the South Arcot District. Milk Supply Socities were organised in South Arcot, Chingleput, Ramnad, Madras, East and West Godavari and Krishna districts. One coir industry society was organised for ex-tappers in the Vizagapatam district. Another cottage industries co-operative society for the manufacture of palmyrah umbrellas and baskets was organised for the gowdas of Balliyalagudam in the Krishna district. 189 jaggery manufacturing co-operative societies were organised during the month in the nine new prohibition districts and 46 societies in the old prohibition districts. 87,546 maunds of jaggery worth Rs. 339,194 was produced during the month in the old prohibition districts. Arrangements for the starting of the societies organised and the issue of licence to ex-tappers for tapping sweet juice for jaggery production have been intensified in the new prohibition districts especially, Tirunelveli, Ramnad and West Godavari and additinnal staff has been deputed to assist the regular staff in these districts in the issue of licences. As a result of the instructions issued for showing preference to ex-tappers, a number of ex-tappers have obtained employment as gang-coolies in the Highways Department. Many other Heads of Departments and offices have taken measures to show preference to these men in the employment of peons, chowkidars, etc. A number of applications from ex-tappers was also sent, through the efforts of the ameliorative staff, to the employment exchanges in the districts and as a result a number of applicants have secured jobs as home-guards and other means of employment.

UPLIFT OF WOMEN: Members of the Women's Welfare Department attended to ameliorative work among women in the districts of Salem, Kurnool, the Nilgiris and the Coimbatore districts.

Reports from the districts indicate that the moral special and economic condition of the masses, especially the poor and the middle classes, has improved after the introduction of Prohibition and several instances have been mentioned where ex-addicts have found money, out of the savings due to their abstinence from drink for discharging prior debts, purchase of houses, country carts, livestock, investment in small-scale business and other productive purposes.

/Issued by the Director of Information and Publicity
(in charge)/

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract

PROHIBITION - Enforcement - Working of - Monthly Report - December 1948 - Recorded.

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Revenue Department

G.O. (Ms)No. 756. Dated, the 23rd March 1949
READ - the following:-

From the Board of Revenue (Excise), R.No.221/49-Pyg/
dated the 7th February 1949.

ORDER:

R e c o r d e d.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

V.K. RAO
Deputy Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue (Excise)

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office, Egmore.

27/10